This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>**Listing of Claims**</u>:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): An image processing method that utilizes either of shooting information representing a shooting condition of image data and image processing control information for specifying an image processing condition of the image data, either of which is related to the image data, and thereby makes the image data subjected to a series of image processing, said image processing method comprising:

acquiring the image data;

retrieving either of the shooting information and the image processing control information, either of which is related to the acquired image data; and

in the case of successful retrieval of the image processing control information, executing the series of image processing of the image data according to the image processing control information.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): An image processing method in accordance with claim 1, said image processing method further comprising:

in the case of successful retrieval of the image processing information, not executing retrieval of the shooting information.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): An image processing apparatus that utilizes either of shooting information representing a shooting condition of image data and image processing control information for specifying an image processing condition of the image data, either of which is related to the image data, and thereby makes the image data subjected to a series of image processing, said image processing apparatus comprising:

an image data acquisition unit that acquires the image data;

an image processing information retrieval unit that retrieves either of the shooting information and the image processing control information, either of which is related to the acquired image data; and

an image processing unit that, in the case of successful retrieval of the image processing control information, executes the series of image processing of the image data according to the image processing control information.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): A recording medium in which an image processing program is recorded, said image processing program causing a computer to utilize either of shooting information representing a shooting condition of image data and image processing control information for specifying an image processing condition of the image data, either of which is related to the image data, and thereby make the image data subjected to a series of image processing, said image processing program comprising:

a program command that acquires the image data;

a program command that retrieves either of the shooting information and the image processing control information, either of which is related to the acquired image data; and

a program command that, in the case of successful retrieval of the image processing control information, executes the series of image processing of the image data according to the image processing control information.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): An image processing method that utilizes either of shooting information representing a shooting condition of image data and image processing control information for specifying an image processing condition of the image data, either of which is related to the image data, and thereby makes the image data subjected to a series of image processing, said image processing method comprising:

acquiring the image data;

retrieving either of the shooting information and the image processing control information, either of which is related to the acquired image data; and

in the case of failed retrieval of the image processing control information but successful retrieval of the shooting information, executing the series of image processing to the image data, based on the shooting information.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): An image processing method in accordance with claim 5, said image processing method further comprising:

in the case of failed retrieval of both the image processing control information and the shooting information, executing the series of image processing of the image data according to default image processing control information, which is general-purpose image processing information set for preset image data.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): An image processing method in accordance with claim 5, wherein the executing the image processing to the image data is carried out by converting at least part of the shooting information into image processing control information and executing the series of image processing of the image data according to the converted image processing control information.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): An image processing apparatus that utilizes either of shooting information representing a shooting condition of image data and image processing control information for specifying an image processing condition of the image data, either of which is related to the image data, and thereby makes the image data subjected to a series of image processing, said image processing apparatus comprising:

an image data acquisition unit that acquires the image data;

an image processing information retrieval unit that retrieves either of the shooting information and the image processing control information, either of which is related to the acquired image data; and

an image processing unit that, in the case of failed retrieval of the image processing control information but successful retrieval of the shooting information, executes the series of image processing of the image data, based on the shooting information.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A recording medium in which an image processing program is recorded, said image processing program causing a computer to utilize either of shooting information representing a shooting condition of image data and image processing control information for specifying an image processing condition of the image data, either of which is related to the image data, and thereby make the image data subjected to a series of image processing, said image processing program comprising:

a computer command that acquires the image data;

a computer command that retrieves either of the shooting information and the image processing control information, either of which is related to the acquired image data; and

a computer command that, in the case of failed retrieval of the image processing control information but successful retrieval of the shooting information, executes the series of image processing of the image data, based on the shooting information.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An image processing method that utilizes either of shooting information representing a shooting condition of image data and image processing control information for specifying an image processing condition of the image data, either of which is related to the image data, as image processing information and thereby makes the image data subjected to a series of image processing <u>in an image processing apparatus</u>, said image processing method comprising:

acquiring the image data;

retrieving either of the shooting information and the image processing control information, either of which is related to the acquired image data <u>by an image data generating apparatus that is a separate body independent from the image processing apparatus</u>; and

in the case of successful retrieval of the image processing control information, executing the series of image processing of the image data according to the image processing control information, while in the case of failed retrieval of the image processing control information, executing the series of image processing of the image data, based on the shooting information.

Claim 11 (Original): An image processing method in accordance with claim 10, said image processing method further comprising:

in the case of successful retrieval of the image processing information, not executing retrieval of the shooting information.

Claim 12 (Original): An image processing method in accordance with claim 10, said image processing method further comprising:

in the case of failed retrieval of both the image processing control information and the shooting information, executing the series of image processing of the image data according to default image processing control information, which is general-purpose image processing information set for preset image data.

Claim 13 (Original): An image processing method in accordance with claim 10, wherein the executing the image processing to the image data is carried out by converting at least part of the shooting information into image processing control information and executing the series of image processing of the image data according to the converted image processing control information.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus that utilizes either of shooting information representing a shooting condition of image data and image processing control information for specifying an image processing condition of the image data, either of which is related to the image data, as image processing information and thereby makes the image data subjected to a series of image processing, said image processing apparatus comprising:

an image data acquisition unit that acquires the image data;

an image processing information retrieval unit that retrieves either of the shooting information and the image processing control information, either of which is related to the acquired image data <u>by an image data generating apparatus that is a separate body independent from the image processing apparatus</u>; and

an image processing unit that, in the case of successful retrieval of the image processing control information, executes the series of image processing of the image data according to the image processing control information, while in the case of failed retrieval of the image processing control information, executing the series of image processing of the image data, based on the shooting information.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A ~~recording~~ <u>computer-readable storage</u> medium ~~in which~~ <u>having</u> an image processing program ~~is recorded~~ <u>stored thereon</u>, said image processing program causing a computer to utilize either of shooting information representing a shooting condition of image data and image processing control information for specifying an image processing condition of the image data, either of which is related to the image data, as image processing information and thereby make the image data subjected to a series of image processing <u>in an image processing apparatus</u>, said image processing program comprising:

a program command that acquires the image data;

a program command that retrieves either of the shooting information and the image processing control information, either of which is related to the acquired image data <u>by an image data generating apparatus that is a separate body independent from the image processing apparatus</u>; and

a program command that, in the case of successful retrieval of the image processing control information, executes the series of image processing of the image data according to the image processing control information, while in the case of failed retrieval of the image processing control information, executing the series of image processing of the image data, based on the shooting information.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): An image processing method that carries out a series of image processing with an image file that stores image data and at least either of shooting condition, which represents a condition of generating the image data, and image processing control information, which specifies an image processing condition applied for processing of the image data and has a preset storage position according to a record format, said image processing method comprising:

acquiring the image file;

specifying the record format included in the acquired image file;

retrieving the image processing control information at the preset storage position according to the specified record format; and

in the case of successful retrieval of the image processing control information, executing the series of image processing of the image data according to the retrieved image processing control information.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): An image processing method in accordance with claim 16, said image processing method further comprising:

in the case of failed retrieval of the image processing control information at the preset storage position, retrieving the shooting information; and

in the case of successful retrieval of the shooting information, converting at least part of the retrieved shooting information into image processing control information and executing the series of image processing of the image data according to the converted image processing control information.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): An image processing method in accordance with claim 16, wherein the image file is a JPEG data storage file having at least either of a first application marker segment, which is capable of storing the image processing control information, and a second application marker segment, which is capable of storing at least either of the image processing control information and the shooting information on an identical hierarchy, and

the retrieving the image processing control information is sequentially carried out firstly at the preset storage position in the first application marker segment, and then at the preset storage position in the second application marker segment.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): An image processing method in accordance with claim 16, wherein the image file is a JPEG data storage file having at least either of a first application marker segment, which is capable of storing the image processing control information, and a second application marker segment, which is capable of storing at least either of the image processing control information and the shooting information on an identical hierarchy, and

the retrieving the image processing control information is sequentially carried out firstly at the preset storage position in the first application marker segment, and then at the preset storage position in the second application marker segment.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): An image processing method in accordance with either one of claims 18 and 19, said image processing method further comprising:

retrieving the shooting information in the second application marker segment, wherein the second application marker segment is capable of storing the image processing control information on a lower hierarchy than the shooting information; and

in the case of failed retrieval of the image processing control information at the preset storage positions in the first application marker segment and in the second application marker segment and successful retrieval of the shooting information by said shooting information retrieval means, carrying out retrieval of the image processing control information on the lower hierarchy than the shooting information in the second application marker segment.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): An image processing method in accordance with claim 20, said image processing method further comprising:

in the case of failed retrieval of the image processing control information on the lower hierarchy than the shooting information in the second application marker segment, converting at least part of the shooting information into image processing control information and executing the series of image processing of the image data according to the converted image processing control information.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): An image processing method in accordance with claim 16, wherein the image file is a TIFF file having at least either of a first image file directory, which is capable of storing the image processing control information, and a second image file directory, which is capable of storing the shooting information, and

the retrieving the image processing control information is sequentially carried out firstly in the first image file directory, and then in the second image file directory.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): An image processing method in accordance with claim 22, said image processing method further comprising:

retrieving the shooting information in the second image file directory, wherein the second image file directory is capable of storing the image processing control information on a lower hierarchy than the shooting information; and

in the case of failed retrieval of the image processing control information in the first image file directory and successful retrieval of the shooting information by said shooting information retrieval means, retrieving the image processing control information on the lower hierarchy than the shooting information in the second image file directory.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): An image processing method in accordance with claim 23, said image processing method further comprising:

in the case of failed retrieval of the image processing control information on the lower hierarchy than the shooting information in the second image file directory, converting at least part of the shooting information into image processing control information and executing the series of image processing of the image data according to the converted image processing control information.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): An image processing apparatus that carries out a series of image processing with an image file that stores image data and at least either of shooting condition, which represents a condition of generating the image data, and image processing control information, which specifies an image processing condition applied for processing of the image data and has a preset storage position according to a record format, said image processing apparatus comprising:

an image file acquisition unit that acquires the image file;

a format specification unit that specifies the record format included in the acquired image file;

an image processing control information retrieval unit that retrieves the image processing control information at the preset storage position according to the specified record format; and

an image processing unit that, in the case of successful retrieval of the image processing control information, executes the series of image processing of the image data according to the retrieved image processing control information.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): A recording medium in which an image processing program is stored, said image processing program causing a computer to carry out a series of image processing with an image file that stores image data and at least either of shooting condition, which represents a condition of generating the image data, and image processing control information, which specifies an image processing condition applied for processing of the image data and has a preset storage position according to a record format, said image processing program comprising:

a program command that acquires the image file;

a program command that specifies the record format included in the acquired image file;

a program command that retrieves the image processing control information at the preset storage position according to the specified record format; and

a program command that, in the case of successful retrieval of the image processing control information, executes the series of image processing of the image data according to the retrieved image processing control information.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): An image processing method that carries out a series of image processing with an image file that stores JPEG data and at least one of an application marker segment APP0, which represents a JFIF file, an application marker segment APP1, which is capable of storing shooting information representing a condition of generating image data, as well as image processing control information for specifying an image processing condition applied for the processing of the image data on an identical hierarchy and represents an Exif file, and an application marker segment APP6, which is capable of storing the image processing control information, said image processing method comprising:

acquiring the image file;

detecting one or multiple application marker segments; and

in the case of simultaneous detection of the application marker segment APP0 and the application marker segment APP1 by said detection means, not executing the series of image processing of the image data according to the image processing control information.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): An image processing method in accordance with claim 27, said image processing method further comprising:

in the case of detection of any of the application marker segment APP1, a combination of the application marker segment APP1 and the application marker segment APP6, and a combination of the application marker segment APP0 and the application marker segment APP6, executing the series of image processing of the image data according to the image processing control information.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): An image processing apparatus that carries out a series of image processing with an image file that stores JPEG data and at least one of an application marker segment APP0, which represents a JFIF file, an application marker segment APP1, which is capable of storing shooting information representing a condition of generating image data, as well as image processing control information for specifying an image processing condition applied for the processing of the image data on an identical hierarchy and represents an Exif file, and an application marker segment APP6, which is capable of storing the image processing control information, said image processing apparatus comprising:

an image file acquisition unit that acquires the image file;

a detection unit that detects one or multiple application marker segments; and

an image processing unit that, in the case of simultaneous detection of the application marker segment APP0 and the application marker segment APP1 by said detection means, does not execute the series of image processing of the image data according to the image processing control information.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): A recording medium in which an image processing program is stored, said image processing program causing a computer to carry out a series of image processing with an image file that stores JPEG data and at least one of an application marker segment APP0, which represents a JFIF file, an application marker segment APP1, which is capable of storing shooting information representing a condition of generating image data, as well as image processing control information for specifying an image processing condition applied for the processing of the image data on an identical hierarchy and represents an Exif file, and an application marker segment APP6, which is capable of storing the image processing control information, said image processing program comprising:

a program command that acquires the image file;

a program command that detects one or multiple application marker segments; and a program command that, in the case of simultaneous detection of the application marker segment APP0 and the application marker segment APP1 by said detection means, does not execute the series of image processing of the image data according to the image processing control information.